GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:289
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
CONFERENCE TOURISM
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote conference tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Service Sector Committee of the Planning Commission has approved such proposal;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) the criteria fixed for selection of sites for the said purpose; and

(f) the details of the locations in which the Government proposes to set up the infrastructure to promote conference tourism in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f): A statement is laid in the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) AND (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.289 ANSWERED ON 18.12.2008 REGARDING CONFERENCE TOURISM.

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. India is being promoted as a multi attraction tourism destination including MICE through the tourism offices in India and abroad. Literature and CDs on conference tourism are being distributed in potential markets for promotion of Meetings, Incentive, Conference and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism to India. Ministry of Finance had announced in the year 2007-08, a Tax Holiday for 5 years under Section 80-ID (1) of the Income Tax Act for Convention Centres in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Faridabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad.

(c) and (d): The report of the High Level Group on Services Sector (March, 2008) observed that the establishment of four or five large convention centres in the country will help realize the potential specific to MICE.

(e) and (f): The responsibility of selection of sites rests with the State Government, 'Land Owning Agencies' and the 'Private Sector'. Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance under its various schemes subject to the receipt of the proposals complete in all respects, interse priority and availability of funds.